

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 SSO-00 IGA-02 L-03 H-02

SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /075 W

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O R 151340Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8022

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0066

FOR AF BLAKE AND AFR/CWR SHEAR FROM AMB

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO; NIAMEY FOR RDO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EINV, PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: COTONOU BRIDGE DAM: SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITY

REF A - COTONOU 65, B - STATE 10221, C - COTONOU 34,

D - COTONOU 40,

1. WE SHATTERED BY APPARENT ACTION SOMEWHERE IN AID TO INFORM S&T THAT ALL ACTIVITY ON BRIDGE/DAM PROJECT SUSPENDED DUE TO BENIN GOVT'S FAILURE COMPENSATE NATIONALIZED US INVESTORS (REF B). WOULD ALWAYS HOPE THAT A DECISION OF SUCH IMPORTANCE WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY, AND THAT WE WOULD HEAR ABOUT IT BEFORE OUR BENINESE COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON DO.

2. UNLESS IT HAS BEEN DECIDED ON BASIS OF SOME OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION TO TAKE IMMEDIATE SEVERE REPRISALS AGAINST BENIN, WE WOULD URGE DELAY IN TRIGGERING HICKENLOOPER AMEND-  
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MENT (REF C).

3. AS INDICATED IN REF C, IT IS OUR OPINION THAT ANY SANCTIONS AGAINST BENIN SHOULD BE SPACED OUT, AND THAT EACH ONE IN TURN BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE FOR SECURING IMPROVED BENIN PERFORMANCE THROUGH NEGOTIATION. THROWING ALL THE SWITCHES AT ONCE COULD EXPLODE A POWDER KEG IN US-BENIN RELATIONS AND DEMOLISH BOTH THE OIL COMPANY CLAIMS AND THEIR CURRENT BUSINESS WITH BENIN.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, REF A, THAT BENIN GOVT HAS ALREADY SIGNED AMENDMENT NO 2 OF S&T ENGINEERING CONTRACT, AND THAT WE COUNSEL THAT FUNDING OF THIS AMENDMENT BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS DECISION IS MADE TO INVOKE HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT.

5. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED: STRONGLY URGE RETRACING OF STEPS, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. AID/W SHOULD INFORM S&T THAT (1) SUSPENSION ORDER ON BRIDGE/DAM WAS IN ERROR, OR THAT A DECISION HAS NOW BEEN MADE TO GIVE BENIN GOVT A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUSPENSION, AND (2) LAWYERS ARE STILL EXAMINING APPLICABILITY OF HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT.

B. AF SHOULD INFORM BENIN EMBASSY OF SAME AND ALSO INDICATE THAT THIS EMBASSY IS UNDER URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ENDEAVOR PERSUADE BENIN GOVT TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO HEAD OFF (OR REVERSE) GSP DISQUALIFICATION AND OBVIATE APPLICATION OF HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT.

C. WE URGE THAT CONTENTS OF REFS A, C AND D BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE FURTHER ACTIONS ARE TAKEN WITH REFERENCE TO COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM PROJECT.  
ENGLE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALIZATION, AMENDMENTS, BRIDGES (STRUCTURES), NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760015-0712  
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**TAGS:** EAID, EINV, PFOR, DM, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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